

**DRAFT MINUTES  
of the Fifth Meeting of the  
APRN Technical Review Committee**

**November 3, 2020  
9:00 p.m. to Noon  
(This meeting was a webex meeting)**

**Members on the call**

**Jeromy Warner, PsyD, LP, Chair  
Allison Dering-Anderson, PharmD, RP  
Su Eells  
Benjamin Greenfield, Perfusionist  
Denise Logan, BS, RT  
Wendy McCarty, EdD**

**Staff persons on the call**

**Matt Gelvin  
Ron Briel  
Marla Scheer**

**Members not on the call**

**Mary Sneckenberg**

**I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of the Agenda**

Jeromy Warner called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The roll was called; a quorum was present. Dr. Warner welcomed all attendees. The agenda and Open Meetings Law were posted and the meeting was advertised online at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Licensure/Pages/Credentialing-Review.aspx>. The committee members unanimously approved the agenda for the fifth meeting and the minutes of the fourth meeting.

**II. Final Questions and Discussion on the Proposal**

There were no final questions or final discussion at this time.

**III. Committee Discussion on the Six Criteria**

**Criterion one: The health, safety, and welfare of the public are inadequately addressed by the present scope of practice or limitations on the scope of practice.**

Wendy McCarty: Commented that she does see the need for improved access to care in remote rural areas of our state. Dr. McCarty added that she sees the proposal as being forward-looking and that it would make it more likely than under the current situation for remote rural areas to receive better access to care in the future. She added that all four of the nursing groups under review are advanced practice nurses and should be seen as equally competent and well-trained to practice independently.

Sue Eells: Commented that each of the four nursing groups under review are different in significant ways and that this complicates the question inherent in the first criterion.

Denise Logan: Commented that there is a need for improved access to care in our state and that the proposal would be helpful in that regard. Also there is a need for Nebraska to

recruit advanced practice nurses and the proposal would be helpful in this way, as well.

Allison Dering-Anderson: Commented that the current piecemeal approach to the regulation of the four advanced practice nursing groups is not efficient given how similar they are to one another. There is a need for greater uniformity in the way these groups are regulated.

**Criterion two: Enactment of the proposed change in scope of practice would benefit the health, safety, or welfare of the public.**

Wendy McCarty: Commented that the proposal would benefit the public by making it more possible for improved access to care in remote rural areas of our state.

Jeromy Warner: Commented that in his mind opponent information and arguments did not discredit applicant group claims regarding the benefits of the proposal.

**Criterion three: The proposed change in scope of practice does not create a significant new danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.**

Allison Dering-Anderson: Commented that opponent group data and commentary were not convincing regarding the potential of the proposal to cause new harm.

Also, opponent arguments regarding how the proposal would weaken team approaches to healthcare are not believable because cooperation between health professions has become a mainstay of healthcare today, and has become such a necessary component of our healthcare system that there can be no doubt that it's here to stay, regardless of what happens vis-a-vis current political controversies between certain health professions.

Su Eells: Commented that her concerns were with the Nurse Midwifery group, and that new harm could arise from a weakening of oversight of these providers under the terms of the proposal.

Jeromy Warner: Commented that he saw no evidence or information that convinced him that any harm would come from the proposal.

**Criterion four: The current education and training for the health profession adequately prepares practitioners to perform the new skill or service.**

Allison Dering-Anderson: Commented that there is no new skill or service being proposed in this review, and that it's the circumstances wherein these services would be occurring that in some instances are new, adding that in her judgement the proposal satisfies this criterion.

Wendy McCarty: Commented that all four of the nursing groups under review are well-trained and well-educated and possess comparable skill sets and abilities, and for these reasons should be regulated as one, single, nursing profession.

Jeromy Warner: Commented that the extent of overlap between the four nursing groups in question is not entirely clear and that important differences remain.

Su Eells: Commented that the education and training of CRNAs is impressive and should be an example to other nursing groups.

**Criterion five: There are appropriate post-professional programs and competence assessment measures available to assure that the practitioner is competent to perform the new skill of service in a safe manner.**

Wendy McCarty: Commented that the Board of Nursing provides the oversight for all nurses and provides for all post-credentialing education and training and that this should ensure that appropriate standards would be in place for the proposal under review.

Jeromy Warner: Commented that he is not sure about the uniformity of post-professional education and training among the four respective nursing groups, especially as regards CNMs.

Ben Greenfield: Commented that his concern is with the additional prescriptive authority in the proposal and the potential for new harm that this might create given the differences between the four groups in training and work experience vis-à-vis pharmacology-related services.

Allison Dering-Anderson: Expressed disagreement with Dr. Warner regarding the CNMs and asked, what are CNMs not doing that the other nursing groups are doing vis-à-vis education and training for example? She added that the core education and training of all four of the respective nursing groups is the same.

**Criterion six: There are adequate measures to assess whether practitioners are competently performing the new skill or service and to take appropriate action if they are not performing competently.**

Wendy McCarty: Commented that the oversight provided by the Board of Nursing should be adequate to provide the public with the necessary protection. She added that the core education and training of these four nursing groups is the same.

Denise Logan: Commented that she has confidence that the Board of Nursing would be able to protect the public under the terms of the proposal, but added that she is not totally sure about the extent of uniformity of testing vis-à-vis pharmaceuticals among the four nursing groups in question.

Allison Dering-Anderson: Commented that she too is not entirely clear about the extent of uniformity of testing vis-à-vis pharmaceuticals among the four nursing groups in question.

Jeromy Warner: Commented that he is not sure of the extent of consistent clinical hours among the four nursing groups under review. This question was asked but he didn't recollect an answer from the applicant group.

Denise Logan: Also commented on the relative lack of information about the extent of consistent clinical hours among the four nursing groups under review.

#### **IV. Committee Recommendations on the Proposal**

The committee members took the following action on the APRN proposal as a whole via an up/down vote to formulate their recommendations:

##### **Voting to approve the applicants' proposal were the following committee members:**

Allison Dering-Anderson  
Wendy McCarty  
Denise Logan

##### **Voting not to approve the applicants' proposal were the following committee members:**

Ben Greenfield  
Su Eells  
Chairperson Dr. Jeromy Warner abstained from voting.

**After the voting was completed the committee members commented on their reasons for voting as they did, as follows:**

##### **Allison Dering-Anderson: (Voted yes)**

Overall, there is no indication that the proposal would cause any harm and there is reason to believe that it could improve access to care.

##### **Su Eells: (Voted no)**

Midwifery safety is a concern in that this group did not seem to possess the necessary background in pharmaceuticals, overall, to be safe.

##### **Ben Greenfield: (Voted no)**

Prescriptive authority is a concern and it seemed that at least some of the members of the four nursing groups in question lacked sufficient educational / experiential background to have full prescriptive authority.

##### **Denise Logan: (Voted yes)**

Prescriptive authority is a concern but the facts tell us that three of the four nursing groups under review already prescribe extensively. As long as the Board of Nursing enforces high standards in this area of care there should not be a problem with approving this proposal. She added that access to care could be improved by the proposal without creating significant new harm. Additionally, the recruitment of new advanced practice nurses to Nebraska might also be improved by passing this proposal.

##### **Wendy McCarty: (Voted yes)**

The preponderance of evidence indicates that the proposal would likely benefit the public without creating significant risk of new harm, adding that information from other states indicates that rural populations have benefited from other versions of this proposal, and that opponent predictions of harm to the public from them have not been borne out by available evidence, therein.

**V. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public at this time.

**VI. Other Business and Adjournment**

There being no further business, the committee members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. .

